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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, CATEGORIES I AND II

Quadrennial reports, 1990-1993

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 3 May 1968

Addendum

* E/C.2/1995/1.

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Note

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in categories I and II shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

At its 1981 session, the Committee decided that quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two single-spaced pages. At its 1989 session, the Committee stressed the need for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

At its 1991 session, the Committee emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations requested to submit quadrennial reports to provide a clear picture of their activities as they related to the United Nations. The Committee further noted that the reports should conform to the guidelines elaborated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Committee (see E/1991/20, para. 47). The Committee decided that only those reports elaborated in conformity with the guidelines and submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit no later than 1 June of the year preceding the Committee's session would be transmitted to the Committee for consideration. The Committee recalled that organizations failing to submit adequate reports on time would be subject to reclassification in status that the Committee might deem appropriate, in conformity with paragraph 40 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) (see E/1991/20, para. 48). Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat, in December 1993, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports.

The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1995/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

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1. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

(Category II)

Background

The International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL) was formed in 1969 in New Delhi as a public interest organization with the aims of encouraging advice and assistance, through its network, and of fostering the exchange and dissemination of information on environmental law and policy among its elected members. The current membership comprises 377 individuals and 34 institutions.

ICEL is directed by a Board of Governors (international governors and two regional governors, elected by each of the 10-membership regions throughout the world). The Board elects two executive governors as well as individuals and institutions proposed for membership in ICEL.

As a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, ICEL has permanent representatives at United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

ICEL is a member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and supports its Environmental Law Programme.

Information monitoring and dissemination

ICEL, in partnership with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, maintains what may be the world's most extensive collection of documents on environmental law and policy (international treaties, supra-national instruments, national legislation, soft law, literature and documents of international organizations, especially the United Nations system). Material from all countries and in all languages is collected, in order to maintain as broad a coverage as possible. References to the documents are entered into the computerized data bank ELIS (Environmental Law Information System). ELIS is a special sectoral source for the UNEP information referral service INFOTERRA. Upon request, it also assists the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Publications

ICEL's Journal Environmental Policy and Law highlights current developments in international environmental law. It monitors international developments and regional and national affairs. A special section covers the activities of the United Nations system and reprints important resolutions and decisions. Twenty-four issues were published in the period considered.

In 1992, ICEL began publication of the loose-leaf collection International Environmental Soft Law. One supplement appeared in the period considered.

In cooperation with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, ICEL continued the publication of the bibliography ICEL References, which lists references to

literature on environmental law and policy acquired by the ICEL library. Sixteen issues appeared in the period considered.

As a service of UNEP in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, ICEL produces the monthly Environmental Notes for Parliamentarians, a newsletter designed to provide parliamentarians around the world with brief but regular references to current developments in environmental policy.

Elisabeth Haub Prize

Since 1973, ICEL, together with the Free University of Brussels, has awarded the Elisabeth Haub Prize for exceptional accomplishments in the field of environmental law. During the period considered, the following persons were awarded the prize: Dr. Andronico O. Adede, Kenya (1990), Prof. Hubert Bocken, Belgium (1991), Prof. Nicholas A. Robinson, United States of America (1992), Ambassador Wilfried Lang, Austria (1993).

Contributions to conferences of and negotiations within the United Nations system

As an NGO with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, ICEL contributed to the fullest extent to the preparatory process for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to the Conference itself. ICEL has contributed to all United Nations General Assemblies and to the sessions of the UNEP Governing Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. ICEL has also been represented at meetings of ECE, ECA and ESCAP and of the ILO and other specialized agencies. In addition, ICEL has contributed to the conferences of the Parties to various environmental Conventions, with special attention to developments regarding the Law of the Sea. The scope of this report does not permit a listing of the contributions and submissions to the various conferences.

Contributions to the United Nations Decade of International Law

Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict

ICEL has addressed itself to the issue of the use of harm to the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict. In 1991 and 1992, in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, consultations were held with legal experts on the law concerning the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. Existing international law was examined in order to explore the possibilities of further strengthening and developing the law, and the drafting process for a new international instrument was initiated.

Draft covenant on environment and development

ICEL is cooperating with the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law on a project to draft an international covenant on environment and development. The

project aims to consolidate major existing and emerging legal principles relating to environmental conservation and sustainable development in an internationally binding legal instrument and to contribute to the progressive development of international environmental law. A working group session of high-ranking international experts resulted in a fourth draft, which was submitted by the Government of Iceland to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and appeared as document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/4. Work on the fifth draft progressed steadily during the remainder of the period under consideration.

2. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR VITAL REGISTRATION AND STATISTICS

(Category II)

Background

The International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIVRS) is a non-profit association comprised of government officials responsible for the registration of vital events (births, deaths, marriages, divorces etc.) and for the national compilation of vital statistics based on these registered documents. The 1993 membership of IIVRS included 413 members in 157 countries, and 27 members in international agencies. There has been a significant increase in membership since the last quadrennium.

The mission of IIVRS is to promote the improvement of national civil registration and vital statistics systems by the exchange of technical information, stimulating activities and programmes, and by giving publicity among its members to the relevant activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the regional commissions. IIVRS carries out its mission by publishing a periodic newsletter and a series of technical papers. It also organizes expert committees to work on specific problems.

The following are the activities undertaken in the past four years in connection with the United Nations and its specialized agencies:

International Program for the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CR/VS)

Although the Program is being held in abeyance pending availability of funds, preparatory work was started. One of the requirements for the participation of countries in the Program is a self-assessment of the country CR/VS systems and the preparation of a report on the national organization of the CR/VS systems with an evaluation of the existing system and a statement of current problems. In 1990, a draft of the questionnaire for assessment of the country system and a draft outline of the country report prepared by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat were reviewed and suggestions for revision were made.

In 1992, IIVRS undertook to monitor for the Statistical Division a feasibility study for the improvement of CR/VS in the Philippines. Arrangements were made with the officials of the National Census and Statistics Office to conduct the feasibility study. A review and revision of the draft study report is under way.

IIVRS participated in the Western Asia Workshop on Strategies for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems held 20-24 June 1993 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, sponsored jointly by the Statistical Division, WHO and IIVRS. The workshop was attended by participants from the following countries or areas: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon,

Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The East and South Asian Workshop on Strategies for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems was held from 29 November to 3 December in Beijing, China. The workshop was attended by 26 participants from the following countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

IIVRS prepared and presented papers at both of the Asian workshops.

Liaison and promotion activities

In 1991, IIVRS participated in a number of activities with other organizations as a means of promoting the improvement of CR/VS systems. One such important activity was participation in the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission in February. In addition to preparing for the session a conference room paper entitled "Urgently needed reforms in the CR/VS systems of developing countries", IIVRS staff cooperated with the staff of the Statistical Division in their preparation of the main conference document for the agenda item dealing with a review of vital statistics and civil registration systems, and as an NGO participated in the discussion of that item. The Statistical Commission gave unanimous support to the International Program for Accelerating the Improvement of CR/VS Systems.

IIVRS participated in the May meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the International Program for Accelerating the Improvement of CR/VS Systems. The main topic discussed was the preparation for the workshop held in Buenos Aires in December.

An IIVRS staff member presented a seminar to the staff of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat during the period of the Statistical Commission session on the subject of the uses of civil registration records and vital statistics data in population and public health research and programmes.

The Latin American Workshop on Strategies for the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics was held in Buenos Aires from 2 to 6 December 1991. The workshop was sponsored by the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics.

3. LAW ASSOCIATION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (LAWASIA)

(Category II)

Background

Formed in 1966, LAWASIA is a professional, non-governmental association of lawyers, judges and law teachers. Although membership is open world wide, most members come from the Asia and Pacific region, the same geographical area as that of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Membership is made up of individual members, member organizations, corporations and law firms.

LAWASIA now has approximately 2,000 individual members world wide and 52 member organizations in 22 countries throughout the region.

LAWASIA's objectives include: promoting the administration of justice; the protection of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary; advancing legal education; diffusing knowledge of the law of member countries; promoting development of the law and uniformity, where appropriate; furthering international understanding and goodwill; fostering relations and intercourse between lawyers in the region; upholding and advancing the status of the legal profession in the region. LAWASIA's governing bodies are the General Conference and the Council, composed of elected members from each affiliated country, which in turn elects the President and the Executive Committee from among its members.

LAWASIA is structured into several sections and standing committees covering a very broad field of activities of direct relevance to the United Nations goals, inter alia: international trade law, comparative constitutional law, criminal law, environmental law, labour law, legal aid, legal education, women in the law, family law, the Judicial Section and the Human Rights Standing Committee.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and conferences

LAWASIA's representatives have actively participated every year in the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission. They have presented oral statements on various items, inter alia: regional arrangements on human rights, independence of the judiciary, detention, and children's rights.

Furthermore, LAWASIA representatives participated actively in each session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights and in the Bangkok regional Asian preparatory meeting.

At the World Conference in Vienna (1993) LAWASIA representatives took part both in the NGO Forum and the Conference proper. They made several oral statements on the programmes of LAWASIA in the plenary, the General Committee and the Meetings of Chairmen of Treaty Bodies. LAWASIA organized a workshop on regional coordination among Asian NGOs.

At the preceding United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, LAWASIA was likewise actively present.

From May to July 1994, LAWASIA participated in New York in the UNCITRAL Working Group on Review of NGO Status and in the regular session of the Economic and Social Council.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

LAWASIA cooperates actively with several United Nations programmes and the programmes of specialized agencies, inter alia:

Human rights education

LAWASIA has considerable experience in legal education for human rights and it intends to contribute fully to the forthcoming International Decade for Human Rights Education. It has had several consultations on this subject with the Centre for Human Rights and the Human Rights Division of UNESCO. It participated and made oral statements at the UNESCO World Congress on Human Rights Education in Montreal in 1993. LAWASIA would envisage organizing various subregional seminars on the subject during the Decade, in cooperation and with the assistance of the United Nations and UNESCO.

Regional human rights arrangements for Asia and the Pacific

In accordance with United Nations resolutions on this subject, LAWASIA has been promoting for many years a draft Pacific charter on human rights as a draft treaty open to Pacific countries, with international implementation procedures and bodies. In July 1992, a LAWASIA delegation visited several Pacific countries to promote a governmental meeting to discuss the process towards the eventual adoption of the Charter. The Centre for Human Rights is being kept informed of progress in this regard.

Rights of the Child

The Family Law Section of LAWASIA held a successful international conference on this subject in Sydney in 1992 where a special NGO fund to help implement the Convention in Asia was created.

The Human Rights Standing Committee of LAWASIA is monitoring implementation of the recommendations of an NGO Regional Seminar on Child Exploitation, held in Lahore in February 1988.

Indigenous populations and minorities

LAWASIA's Human Rights Committee published research on minorities and indigenous populations in Asia in 1990.

Refugees

From 25 to 28 October 1992, LAWASIA's Human Rights Standing Committee sponsored a colloquium in Manila to prepare a comprehensive plan of action concerning Vietnamese migrants in South-East Asia, and it also published a report in 1990 entitled "International law and refugees in South-East Asia". UNHCR plus the United Nations Information Centre were kept informed of these activities.

Administrative detention

In accordance with United Nations resolutions on this subject, LAWASIA, through its Human Rights Committee, launched research on administrative detention practices in the region, starting with the Philippines as a first-case study. A seminar was held on this subject in Manila in May 1994. The aim is to develop an investigation methodology to study systematically the practices throughout the region.

Other relevant activities

LAWASIA organizes and sponsors a number of seminars and expert meetings throughout the region on various topics of relevance to United Nations programmes, including (in addition to those mentioned above) a forthcoming December 1994 seminar on comparative constitutional law, in Kathmandu, Nepal; a meeting on labour law, in Beijing in October 1994; and several meetings on family law and women's rights.

LAWASIA has an ongoing programme of observer missions at trials with human rights implications, including (16-26 May 1992) the trial of East Timorese students in Indonesia. It sends representatives, as appropriate, to Governments on human rights and judiciary issues.

LAWASIA, through its Human Rights Committee and Legal Aid Standing Committee, has considerable experience in legal education and helping disadvantaged groups in litigation and understanding their legal rights. These are actively pursued, especially concerning the urban poor and remote rural communities.

LAWASIA publishes reports of its meetings, especially its biennial conferences. It also publishes several bulletins on human rights, constitutional law, family law, etc.

4. SALVATION ARMY

(Category II)

Background

The Salvation Army is an international Christian movement with consultative status (category II), which is engaged in religious and humanitarian work with medical, educational and many other humanitarian dimensions. Since the last quadrennial report was submitted to the United Nations, the Salvation Army has extended its work further and is now active in 98 countries. During the period 1989-1994 relationships with United Nations offices and units in New York, Geneva and Vienna have been maintained and developed, the work in these three centres being coordinated in London, England.

The Commissioner, assisted by three regional representatives, directed, from the Salvation Army's international headquarters in London, the organization's involvement in the United Nations Year of the Family. The Army was represented at meetings held in Vienna with regard to the Year.

The Salvation Army has attended the Congress of NGOs held at Geneva in October 1991.

Geneva activities

The Salvation Army was represented at the CONGO board meetings and NGO meetings and briefings in connection with UNHCR and human rights conferences, as well as at NGO meetings concerned with the World Summit for Children, organized by UNICEF.

The organization was particularly active in the special NGO Committee on Development and also took part in meetings concerned with the International Day of Peace and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Vienna International Centre

In Vienna the Salvation Army has been represented at meetings of the Committee on Narcotic Drugs where various Salvation Army reports have been submitted; one was distributed to every committee member.

A short report on social concerns was presented in Moscow where the Salvation Army has recently recommenced its work and also submitted a report concerning projects in Budapest. The Salvation Army was represented at the second session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna in April 1993.

Among United Nations activities in New York, the Salvation Army was represented in meetings of the NGO Committees on the Family, the Ageing, Human Rights, Crime and Drugs.

In addition the Army attended meetings of the Working Group on AIDS and discussions regarding the International Day of Peace.

Important single events

The Salvation Army could not accept the invitation to attend the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, but attention was given to the ongoing process following UNCED. The Salvation Army's publication "The Christian Church and the Environment Question", the work of an Australian salvationist, was circulated in 1991 to officers in top executive positions around the world.

In November 1993 a representative of the Salvation Army attended the United Nations NGO conference in Guatemala on advancing the rights of children. A comprehensive report was prepared by the representative. A copy was made available to the Salvation Army's International Secretary for the Americas.

The Salvation Army values its opportunity to work with other NGOs within the framework of the United Nations.

5. WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

(Category II)

Background

The World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) is a federation (usually called Student Christian Movement, or SCM) of national ecumenical student organizations which are found in 80 countries in different parts of the world. It is mainly organized in universities for and by students, and in some countries - particularly in Africa - it can also be found in secondary schools. WSCF is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, international student organizations. It was established in 1985, in Vadstena, Sweden. It has its origins in the missionary movement of the late nineteenth century and played an important role in the formation of the World Council of Churches in 1948. Aside from its international headquarters in Geneva, WSCF operates through its regional offices in Hong Kong, Ecuador, Kenya, the Netherlands and Lebanon. Its regionalized structure was a response to the clamour for democracy and self-determination of movements, particularly those in the South, in the late 1960s and of the need for contextualization of its theology and its programmes.

SCM as an ecumenical student organization

Being ecumenical and university-based are two facets of SCM's identity. Its ecumenical character gathers students of different church and denominational backgrounds. In some instances, it also reaches out to include students of other faiths on the basis of a much broader definition of ecumenism, which means "the whole inhabited earth".

As a student organization, SCM takes up social issues as they affect students, including the growing majority who are poor and marginalized. It does not confine itself to tackling student and educational issues but sees these as linked very closely to the problems of the larger society. It therefore tries to examine the link between, for example, the violation of student rights and those of workers, or the increasing privatization of education, the decrease in government subsidy and the economic recession plaguing much of the world and the growing indebtedness of most countries in the South.

The starting-point of its work and commitment is the liberating message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It does not limit itself to a particular ideology but only to the realization of the Kingdom of God where justice and peace prevail. This commitment to social transformation as an imperative of the Gospel necessitates the integration and not the dichotomization of faith and political commitment.

Sources of funding, membership

There has been no substantial change in funding sources. WSCF gets its funds from churches and ecumenical partners in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Membership fees from affiliated and associated movements provide very minimal income to the overall budget. In 1990, WSCF launched a Centennial Fund Campaign in response to the shrinking amount of resources that

are available from the churches. The campaign hopes to raise US$ 1 million by 1995.

At its 1990 General Assembly, the WSCF approved the affiliation of the movements in Taiwan (Province of China), South Africa, El Salvador, the Netherlands and Senegal. It also granted associated status to the Student Leaders' Forum of the United Methodist Church in the United States of America.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

Given time and financial availability, WSCF endeavours to participate in UNESCO meetings in Paris. The Co-Secretary-General participated in the meeting held in Beijing in 1992. The regional offices in Ecuador and Nairobi try their best to be present at UNESCO meetings in the two regions. The affiliated movement in El Salvador has a very strong interest in maintaining links with the UNESCO headquarters in that country.

WSCF sent two representatives, from Norway and Taiwan Province to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. It had planned on sending one representative to the World Conference on Human Rights, but could not.

WSCF has consistently attended the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission. It consistently delivers oral interventions under agenda items 10 and 12.

In view of forthcoming world meetings, such as the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, WSCF has been part of various initiatives being organized by NGOs aimed at providing both the United Nations and Governments with information and analysis of the issues which will be dealt with by the Summit and the Fourth World Conference.

Other relevant activities

In April 1991, WSCF organized an international consultation on the role of the churches and international organizations in the changing world order, in New York. A significant part of the consultation consisted of statements delivered by invited governmental representatives to the United Nations on the emerging role of the Security Council, the peace process in El Salvador, the prospects of peace in the Middle East etc.

The international office of WSCF in Geneva has attempted to maximize the impact of the Federation since 1991, given limitations in finances and personnel. Its international human rights programme focuses on WSCF's participation at the meetings of the Commission and its Subcommission. A WSCF Consultation on Education and Contemporary Social Issues is being planned, to be held prior to the Summit, in March 1995. The WSCF is a member of a preparatory committee composed of international youth and student NGOs, led by the World

Assembly of Youth (WAY), which is organizing a pre-Summit youth event in Copenhagen in March 1995.